For Details, Contact:

Captain Robert DeCoster 110 FW/PAO (616) 969-3234 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Michigan Air National Guard 3545 Mustang Avenue Battle Creek, MI 49015-5509

## 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing

## 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Personnel Deploying First Large Group To Southwest Asia

Seventy – plus Support Personnel to Board Planes Starting 15 July 2000

Battle Creek, MI 13 July 2000: Although several small groups from the 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing have already deployed to various locations in Southwest Asia in support of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF), and several of their planes are flying missions, The 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing had not been a large player in the current operation. That is until now. On Saturday morning, more than fifty members of the 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing will be boarding buses that will take them on the first leg of their journey to Southwest Asia to perform a variety of support missions. The buses will take them to the Detroit Metro Airport so they can make a military airlift connection in Baltimore. Another twenty or so members will begin their missions by boarding planes closer to their homes to make the same connection. Over the next two weeks there will be several more departures of this nature as the 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing continues to send members as part of the Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) package of the AEF.

The Expeditionary Combat Support package consists of personnel with career specialties that support the overall mission. These would include areas such as Civil Engineer, Fire Protection, Command Post, Fuels, Transportation, Chaplain, Services, Supply, and Medical professionals. Those who are deploying are going to a variety of bases in the Southwest Asia region, as well as to bases in Europe. They will integrate with members of other Air National Guard units as well as active duty Air Force members, putting their training to use in a real world, mission support environment.



In early August, the Battle Creek base will be deploying to the region on a larger scale to assume flying duties in Operation Southern Watch. More than 300 members will be deploying over the period of responsibility, approximately 30 days. They will be relieving the  $104^{th}$  Fighter Wing from Barnes ANG Base, Massachusetts who are currently deployed there. There will also be additional members of the ECS package deploying at that time, again, to a variety of bases in the region and Europe. The members will be departing directly from the Battle Creek ANG Base in order to make the military airlift flight out of Baltimore, Maryland. There will be a small team of members who are departing later this month to serve as a advance team, making all the necessary preparations for the  $110^{th}$  Fighter Wing to take over.